



# PEOPLE'S WEEKLY



VOL. XXXIII, No. 4

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1952

\$2.00 per year; 3 years \$5.00

## Urges Full Slate Candidates

C.C.F. PRESIDENT



A. J. E. LIESEMER

### Roper Unanimously Re-elected Leader

Elmer E. Roper, M.L.A. was once again the unanimous choice for Provincial Leader and A. J. E. Liesemer was elected president of the Alberta C.C.F. at the annual convention held in Edmonton December 5 and 6. Robert Carlyle was chosen as 1st vice-president, Harold E. Bronson as 2nd vice-president and Art E. Thornton was unanimously re-elected as treasurer. Mrs. Nellie Peterson and E. J. Cook were selected as the two representatives on the C.C.F. National Council. At the Board meeting held following the convention, Mrs. Nellie Peterson was reappointed as secretary.

IN JASPER-EDSON



JOHN LISS

prominent Sangudo farmer who first homesteaded in the district in 1915, was chosen as the C.C.F. candidate for Jasper-Edson at a nominating convention on December 6. Active in all co-operative organizations associated with farming, Mr. Liss is also always to the fore in promoting community projects. He is a veteran of World Wars I and II.

ACADIA CANDIDATE



H. STUART McRAE

was nominated as the C.C.F. candidate for the Acadia federal riding at an enthusiastic and representative convention held at Hanna on November 27. A young farmer of the Scapa district, Mr. McRae is a member of the Farmers' Union of Alberta and is a Director of the Rural Electrification Association. Morton Neilson, Geo. Smith and Ed. Blain were also nominated but all withdrew in favor of Mr. McRae who is recognized as an excellent candidate.

## CCF Convention Makes Plans For Active Year

Keynoted by enthusiastic rededication of faith in the essential rightness of the principles and program of the C.C.F., delegates to the annual provincial convention in Edmonton December 5 and 6, personally subscribed over \$2,100 to carry on C.C.F. organization work and pledged themselves to help raise a budget of \$19,500 - (\$3,000 more than the budget committee recommended) for the coming year.

In accepting the challenge of Provincial Leader, Elmer E. Roper, to keep alight in Alberta the beacon of the Co-operative Commonwealth, it was agreed that continued efforts should be made to get a complete slate of candidates in the forthcoming federal election. Decision to nominate has been made in the three Edmonton ridings as well as in Wetaskiwin, Peace River and Red Deer. Two candidates - Stuart McRae, for Acadia-Coronation and John Liss, for Jasper-Edson have already been nominated.

Farm problems as well as the health and welfare of the people generally were to the fore in convention discussions and important recommendations were also made on international affairs.

Labor delegates, both Canadian Congress of Labor and Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, reported on plans to circulate a petition to the federal government calling for a National Health plan. Rural residents were also keenly interested in the proposal and delegates pledged themselves to make every effort to see to it that the health petition was widely circulated.

In reaffirming the position taken by the C.C.F. National Council (Continued on page 6)

### CCF Asks Wheat Ceiling Of \$2.35

Endorsing the decision of the Farmers' Union of Alberta in respect to a new International Wheat Agreement, the Alberta C.C.F. convention meeting in Edmonton December 5 and 6, called for a ceiling price of \$2.35 per bushel, f.o.b. Fort William or Vancouver, plus carrying charges; a floor price of \$1.85 per bushel, Fort William or Vancouver, plus carrying charges; and that provision be made for annual price review. It was urged that the maximum change in floor or ceiling price should not exceed ten cents per bushel in any one year.

Another resolution receiving the approval of the convention called for a Livestock Marketing Board, along the lines of the Wheat Board to be set up by the federal government, such board to handle all livestock offered for sale with the exception of farmer-to-farmer transactions.

The convention reiterated the policy of the C.C.F. on rural electrification and urged that the pro-

(Continued on Page 8)

### Roper Broadcast On Monday, December 22

Elmer E. Roper, M.L.A., C.C.F. Provincial Leader, will speak in the next "Provincial Affairs" broadcast on Monday, December 22, at 6:45 p.m. It will be heard over radio stations CFRN, CFBN and CHAT. Another broadcast in the same series will be given by Mr. Roper on Monday, January 12.

### PERSONAL STUFF

BY E. E. R.

This column might have been written any time in the past thirty-three years. In 1919 a weekly paper called the Edmonton Free Press was started. It was promoted and published privately but was endorsed by the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council. It was not long before some criticism of the paper's editorial policy arose. Out of the ensuing discussion came the publisher's challenge to the Trades and Labor Council, "All right, you pick your own editor". I was then employed by the Edmonton Bulletin as press-room foreman, but was doing some labor reporting and conducted a labor page in the Saturday edition. I was asked to take on, as a spare time job, the editorship of the Free Press. In September, 1920, the paper received the endorsement of the Alberta Federation of Labor and became the Alberta Labor News. I left the Bulletin to work full time on the Labor News. In May, 1921, the publisher of the paper and I went into the printing business. In 1932 I took over the business, continuing to publish the Labor News. In 1936 we changed the name of the paper to People's Weekly to give it a broader field. William Irvine became Associate Editor. In the next few years the paper had the largest circulation of its history.

Although the People's Weekly from the beginning, and the Alberta Labor News before that, had been supporting the C.C.F. (not unnaturally, with Irvine and I editing it!) it was not an organ of the C.C.F. and the control was entirely in my hands. There wasn't much criticism of editorial policy but at most conventions of the Alberta C.C.F. there were those who believed that the party should have its own official organ under

(Continued on page 8)

### Dushenski Given Ovation By C.C.F.

Nick Dushenski, newly elected C.C.F. member of the legislature for Willingdon, was accorded an ovation when introduced to the C.C.F. annual convention in Edmonton. He credited his election to the fact that C.C.F. members in his constituency were sufficiently interested to assist in doing a good job of organization work.

### Want Oil Price Based On Cost

That the provincial government shall make as a condition of any lease that the oil produced in this province shall be sold at a price based on the cost of production in Alberta refineries of Alberta crude oil, was requested by the Alberta C.C.F. in a resolution passed at its convention in Edmonton December 5 and 6.

Because of the monopolistic nature of the oil industry, it was contended that the price of Alberta crude oil is determined by the price of Oklahoma crude oil at Sarnia, Ontario, and has no relation to the costs of oil production in Alberta. This method of pricing, said the resolution, enables the oil companies to recover from the consumer with one hand any royalties it may pay out with the other.

Dealing with the question of natural gas rates, the convention requested the Alberta legislature at its next session to conduct a close investigation into means by which regulation of the gas companies may be made much more vigorous and "that in cases where municipalities express a desire to publicly own their gas utilities in order to reduce the price to the consumer, that the provincial government be urged to assist such municipalities to acquire the company's assets by granting suitable long-term loans." It was claimed that the lax regulations of the Al-

(Continued on page 6)

## People's Weekly Merged With The Commonwealth

This is the last issue of The People's Weekly.

Beginning with its January 7th issue, The Commonwealth, published at Regina, by the Saskatchewan C.C.F., will go to all former People's Weekly subscribers.

The Commonwealth is a weekly paper.

The subscription rate for The Commonwealth is \$2.50 per year. Recently, People's Weekly readers have been paying \$2.00 for a monthly publication.

In adjusting all unexpired subscriptions to the new rate, subscribers will get The Commonwealth for approximately ten months for the \$2.00 paid to the People's Weekly for one year. Therefore for the \$2.00 paid for

twelve issues of The People's Weekly, subscribers will now get approximately forty issues of The Commonwealth.

### Generous Proposal

This generous proposal was made possible by the Saskatchewan C.C.F. and the management The Commonwealth in taking of The People's Weekly subscriber list.

Alberta subscriptions to Commonwealth will continue to be paid to the Alberta office, Woodworth 10140 107th Street, Edmonton.

The Commonwealth will have a special page of news about the activities of the Alberta organizations. Other

(Continued on page 8)

# At The Convention

## Foreign Affairs

Earliest possible cessation of hostilities in Korea by removing peace negotiations from military control and by the appointment of a body of negotiators representative of the governments of all the nations whose forces are engaged in the conflict, was urged by the Alberta C.C.F. in its convention in Edmonton December 5 and 6.

The resolution approving this suggestion also expressed opposition to proposals to extend the war to the use of atomic weapons or to support of action by the forces of Chiang Kai-shek.

Commend C.C.F. M.P.'s

The C.C.F. members of parliament were commended for their efforts to persuade the government of Canada to take the strongest possible stand in the United Nations along these lines. The resolution noted the many dis-

turbing statements in respect to the situation in Korea and the Far East which have been made in recent weeks by men prominent in the party which is about to assume control of the government of the United States. It was contended that these statements should be challenged by those who seek the establishment of peace rather than the prolongation and extension of the war.

### Recognition of China

In another resolution it was contended that no full settlement of the Korean problem could be expected until the legitimate government of China is recognized by the nations of the world and admitted to the councils of the United Nations. The convention reaffirmed its belief that Canada should recognize the Chinese government and that Canada's representation at the U.N. should proceed repeatedly for China's admission.

### Aid to Depressed People

The convention approved a report submitted by the Foreign Affairs committee under the chairmanship of N. P. Finnemore, in which it was urged that the national leader and C.C.F. members of parliament keep up the pressure for implementing Article 2 of the Atlantic Pact and for expanding the Colombo and similar plans. The committee report declared that if during the past two years the Atlantic Pact nations had given large-scale help to raise the standard of welfare among colonial peoples, "we might have made firm friends of them, friends we could count on if ever we were called upon to meet the challenge of Communism, in war". The policy and present methods of "containing Communism" seemed to be achieving the very opposite result as evidenced by the disturbances in parts of Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

The convention confirmed acceptance in principle of a statement of policy issued by the Second Congress of the Socialist International held last October.

Another resolution asked that the federal government take steps to get the U.S. authorities in charge of immigration to cease discrimination against C.C.F. members who have been refused entry to the U.S.

### Provincial Leader's Address

"When doubts arise in the minds of members of this movement about the worthwhileness of continuing to give devoted support to the C.C.F., they should not determine the matter by an examination of election returns, but by a re-appraisal of the principles and program of the movement," said Elmer E. Roper, M.L.A. provincial leader of the Alberta C.C.F., in addressing the annual convention in Edmonton on December 5th.

If the things for which the C.C.F. stands are good and true C.C.F. members should continue to fight for them regardless of election results, Mr. Roper contended.

When the delegates from across Canada met in Regina in those summer days of 1933, to hammer out on the anvil of free and frank discussion the great document which we call the Regina Manifesto, there was no word put into it or left out of it because of any possible effect on the winning or losing of future elections, said the C.C.F. leader.

"The purpose of that gathering," he went on, "was to adopt a statement of political faith. 'This,' we said, 'is what we believe. This is the program which we will strive to have implemented in our beloved Canada.' We hoped for electoral success, of course. But success in elections if it came would always be regarded as a by-

product of the larger purpose, which was to promote, in season and out of season, the principles and program for the propagation of which our movement had been formed."

### Offers Only Hope

"It is of vital importance that the C.C.F. program should be called to public attention at this time," Mr. Roper said. "In the disturbed state of international affairs the position taken by the democratic socialist movements of the world offers the only certain hope of united strength for the democratic principle. Our policy is clearly stated in the Regina Manifesto in this sentence: 'A foreign policy designed to obtain international economic co-operation and to promote disarmament and world peace'. That was the C.C.F. policy twenty years ago. It is our policy today."

By resolution of the Alberta C.C.F. convention the delegates asked the executive to explore the possibility of publishing in pamphlet form the address of the C.C.F. Provincial Leader, Elmer E. Roper. All delegates present agreed to take \$1.00 worth of these to be mailed C.O.D. to them.

### Education

That 75 per cent of the cost of elementary and secondary education should be paid from provincial revenue was contended by the Alberta C.C.F. convention in Edmonton December 5 and 6. The resolution stated that this should be done "so that the municipal authorities may have the means to create such conditions of education for the children and work for the teachers, as will make teaching an attractive profession."

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## CANADA—TWO NATIONS

What would you think of a family which sat down to a bountiful table loaded with all the good things of life at which table some members helped themselves to heaping measures and other members were rationed out below requirements for adequate nourishment and other necessities?



I am sure you would regard such a family on the level of pigs where the strongest get the trough and put their snouts right into it. Some of them even getting their front feet into the trough while the weaker ones, the runts, had to content themselves with the left-overs. Well, that's the way of the pig. It's their "way of life." Certainly we humans like to think that our way of life is not the way of pigs. Don't we beat our chests that we are Christians and that we believe we are our neighbor's keeper? Well, I am afraid we Canadians are a long way from being practicing Christians concerned with our neighbor's welfare.

Recently released federal government figures for 1951 reveal that this family of 14 million Canadians resembles the picture of pigs at the trough. Well, I better let you draw your own conclusions. The annual wealth produced by Canadians in 1951 amounted to nearly 20 billion dollars.

That means an annual income for each man, woman and child of 1,430 dollars or about 5,700 dollars per family of four. If we set aside 25 per cent of this wealth for wear and tear and tool replacement it still leaves about 4,300 dollars per family. Even under the current high prices that's a comfortable income to provide economic security. It certainly shows that Canadians collectively are diligent, industrious and clever people able to pile their table high with the good things of life. But—how do they fare when it comes to "sharing this wealth"?

It's rather a grim picture. 162,000 families reported an income BELOW a thousand dollars. Those are the runts. They never get enough for adequate nourishment. Some 462,000 family breadwinners brought an income of 1,000 to 2,000 dollars annually. They may not suffer undernourishment but they are the near paupers, who live in basements and attics and pay exorbitant rents. They live in fear of misfortune through sickness and have no security for the time they are too old to work. About 665,000 families earn between \$2,500 to \$4,000 per year, still below the national average. Only 110,000 get \$4,000 to \$6,000 per year. They have their snouts in the trough. Another 41,000 get over \$6,000; both feet in the trough.

Of course all these standards are way above those of the Chinese coolie. But in relation to the

# Fitting Memorial To A Great Canadian -- J. S. Woodsworth

Edith Patterson Gives Her Impressions of Toronto Ceremony

VERY varied and delightful experiences have been mine since I left Alberta for a visit in the East. But the one that was most unique, to me most gratifying, was the gathering organized by the Woodsworth Memorial Foundation, of Ontario, to honor the memory of Mr. J. S. Woodsworth in the tenth year of his death.

A pipe organ recital was in progress as approximately 1,000 people streamed quietly in to fill the Eaton Auditorium to capacity; a very much enlarged photo of Mr. Woodsworth from the life-like one by Karsh on an easel on the platform under suitable lighting; floral decorations, the presence of Mrs. Woodsworth and members of

wealth we produce in Canada it's an ugly picture. It must and can be changed. But not by community chest drives or by exorcising the rich or by preaching at them.

There is a proven practical way to provide an adequate standard of life even for the runts. We have taken some faltering steps in that direction on the energetic insistence of public representatives elected by socially-minded people who in Canada rally to the C.C.F. cause and its principles of social security and social justice.

But—it's utterly inadequate. Our way of life is still too much like that of pigs at the trough. If that bothers you, well—rally under the banner of the C.C.F. to work toward a better sharing of Canada's wealth. Become a champion of social justice and a practical Christian. Christmas charity is not enough. We are our neighbor's keeper not only during the Christmas season, but all the year around.

the family in the audience; readings selected by Lister Sinclair and read by Budd Napp; the evident sincerity and fitting introductions by the chairman, Dr. H. N. Wilkinson (president of the Foundation), all enhanced the tone and purpose of the gathering.

## Douglas Speaker

It was fitting, too, that Hon. T. C. Douglas, whose government is carrying out Mr. Woodsworth's ideals successfully, should be the speaker of the evening. He was wise in his choice of material, reverent and impressive in its presentation. Some heard for the first time of Mr. Woodsworth's influence on the early life of Mr. Douglas—a boy in an immigrant family in Winnipeg helped by the Mission, a newspaper boy seeing a great mob demonstration and terrorism during the Winnipeg strike, the subsequent jailing of Mr. Woodsworth and others; a young preacher in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, and Mr. M. J. Coldwell, unknown to each other writing Mr. Woodsworth for guidance, of his reply that they "get together" and as a result the formation of the Farmer-Labor Party of that province, later to become one of the foundation stones of the C.C.F.

## Last Speech in House

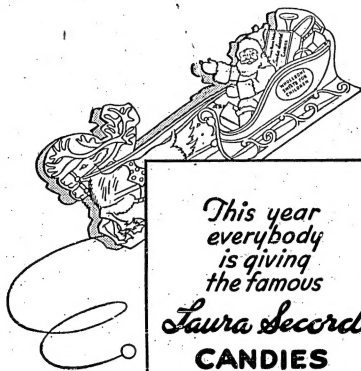
Probably some learned that Mr. Douglas, though not agreeing with his beloved leader on the war issue in 1939, took a seat beside him during the debate in the House of Commons in order that he might

(Continued on Page 4)

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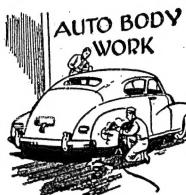
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Editorial Offices: 10010 - 102 Street, Edmonton, Alberta

Business Office: 10140 - 107 Street

Subscriptions: \$2.00 per year; 3 years \$5.00

"Authorized as second-class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa"

Vol. XXXIII, No. 4

December 20, 1952

## FAVOR NOMINATIONS

PROBABLY the most useful function performed by the annual convention of the Alberta C.C.F. was the opportunity it gave those present to re-examine the purpose of their organization. The unanimous conclusion of the delegates seemed to be that the winning or losing of elections was secondary to the promotion of the program of the C.C.F. and the principles upon which it was founded.

It was with this in mind that the convention unanimously urged all federal constituency associations to hold nominating conventions and place candidates in the field in every riding in the coming federal election.

Throughout the two days' proceedings it was emphasized time and again that the program and principles of the C.C.F. were as sound and needful in Canada and the world as they were when they were first set out. No opportunity should be lost, the delegates agreed, to promulgate them. It was considered that election campaigns offered the best opportunity to get the C.C.F. program before the people and that the people in every constituency should be given the chance to hear about and vote for such a program.

## PARTNERSHIP NOT PATRONAGE

INTERNATIONAL economic co-operation as enunciated by the C.C.F. means a sharing of the world's resources, technical skill and living space with other peoples.

We have given our support to such gestures as the Colombo Plan. They embody to some extent, in their conception at least, the principle behind international co-operation. But by their niggardly limitations they go far toward defeating their own purpose. They take on the nature of a crumb or two from the master's table.

Out of the \$25,000,000 which the Canadian government appropriated for the Colombo Plan, \$10 million has gone to India for wheat, of which we had a surplus. The hungry people of India need food but we don't satisfy that need by sending enough bread for a few meals.

The great need of India is assistance to produce its own food. That means farm machinery, and the technical skill that goes into the production and operation of modern farm machinery. But, in the minds of the governments of Canada and the United States, who are obsessed with the single track idea of defence-by-arms, we can't spare the steel that would be needed to make farm machinery. We must save it all for military preparation. And so poverty will persist and misery continue and great masses of hungry people will turn to Communism because it promises them a better life.

In this situation it is not patronage but partnership, not a handout of something of which we have too much, but a sharing of the things essential to the creation of economic abundance, which will align to the cause of democracy the hungry masses which throughout the world are reaching out insistently and irresistibly for a more abundant life. It is the duty of the C.C.F. in Canada to proclaim this truth. There is no better opportunity to do it than that offered by a federal election.

## Fitting Memorial To A

(Continued from Page 3)

hand to him the pages, upon which Mrs. Woodsworth had written in very large letters, for his sight had almost failed, the speech which he had prepared opposing Canada's entry into the war. It was on this occasion that Mr. Mackenzie King expressed his great admiration for Mr. Woodsworth, whose opinions were most often at variance with his own, and asked for Mr. Woodsworth a respectful hearing, which he received.

## Impressive

Perhaps the most impressive passage of Mr. Douglas' address was his vivid and moving description of Mr. Woodsworth's fearlessness, tenacity and power, in bringing to the attention of the House of Commons, day after day, session after session, the social injustices existing in our country, in his advocacy of practical measures

for change, and of his great happiness when some of them were realized. Mr. Douglas closed with the last stanza of William Blake's "Jerusalem"—Mr. Woodsworth's favorite hymn, the music for which we had heard in the organ recital.

## Fitting Memorial

The Ontario Woodsworth Foundation deserves our congratulations and gratitude for the imagination that conceived and planned this memorial, and for the work which made this gathering both in spirit and in attendance a really fitting memorial to a great Canadian. One might hope that it will mean for those who were privileged to be present a redemption to his ideals. And as the significance of these ideals becomes clearer as time passes, redemption, if it is sincere, will result in a greater use of our time and means to the study and application of those principles to which Mr. Woodsworth dedicated his life.

## Timely Topics

By WM. IRVINE

## ISSUE STILL URGENT

We would like the editor of the Edmonton Journal who wrote some time ago that the automobile insurance issue was dead because the Saskatchewan government had not felt fit to raise the premiums, to read what the president of All-Canada Insurance Federation has to say. Here are his words as reported from



London, Ont., by the Canadian Press: "Canadian Insurance companies lost about \$6,300,000 on automobile insurance last year. Canada's most accident-ridden year in history." The president went on to say that "this sad record will be the basis on which new insurance rates will be decided." According to the Journal's logic this statement proves that every insurance company in Canada which sells automobile insurance was on an "unsound actuarial basis" last year.

No, automobile insurance is not a dead issue. The very opposite is true. As the number of cars increase and accidents multiply it will become an increasingly live issue. And the demonstrated fact is that government insurance can be provided at a fraction of the cost charged by private companies. Some day the people of Alberta

will demand that our government provide automobile insurance at cost. The Journal will oppose it, of course, because it is the champion of high private profit for the profiteers. But it will come in spite of the Journal which has opposed practically every reform which has taken place since its first issue.

## What Are Those Policies?

A federal election is approaching. Party leaders are beginning to dress up their dummies for the political show windows. Hon. George Drew, speaking in B.C., is reported as saying, "We must seek to see that resources of forest, mine and soil are used for the benefit of the people of Canada. We should adopt policies to see that Canadians themselves get the highest possible employment and other benefits from these resources."

Fine! Fine! But what sort of policies would that be? The Conservative party has a long history. It has never been known to be interested in keeping the natural resources for the people. It has been quite as active in giving away the natural resources to a privileged few as Social Credit and the Liberals have been. If the Conservative party has decided to change its spots, then Mr. Drew should know what policies would yield the greatest benefits to the people from the natural resources and he should say what the policies are to be. We will await that statement of policy with great interest.

## Ruth Cherry Heads Busy Women's Club Groups

Fund-raising activities as well as group discussions and lectures were featured in the programs of the clubs affiliated with the Provincial Women's Committee of the Alberta C.C.F. when their reports were presented to the annual convention of the party in the I.O.O.F. Hall on Saturday afternoon.

The President of the provincial Women's Committee, Miss Ruth Cherry, Calgary, who was re-elected to this position at Saturday's session, stressed the importance of women's groups as a means of training women for participation in public life as well as in the work of their party. In her visit to Britain during the past summer, Miss Cherry said she was impressed with the number of Labor women on public boards, on county councils and in parliament. They had been encouraged to go on to the larger field because of the confidence they had gained through participation in the work of the women's groups. Informed women had proven valuable as canvassers in election campaigns and were recognized as making a very valuable contribution to the progress of the British Labor Party, she said. Government touched so closely on the lives of women at so many points, including health, unemployment and war, that they should be vitally interested in the kind of government that is elected to power, Miss Cherry contended.

She urged the delegates to encourage the establishment of women's clubs in their communities.

## Calgary

Reporting for the Calgary Club also, Miss Cherry told the convention that an afternoon study club as well as an evening

group were functioning in the southern city. They had contributed some \$225 to the recent election campaign.

## Lethbridge

Mrs. Anne Peters, Lethbridge, reported a very successful tea and bazaar and exhibition booth with \$100 donated to the election campaign and C.C.Y.M. funds. Every encouragement had been given to the C.C.Y.M., the young people's organization, locally as well as provincially, she noted.

## Edmonton

In her survey of Edmonton activities, Mrs. H. Scott, the president, reported numerous fund-raising activities including a rummage sale and lunch counter at the city market as well as a well-rounded program each month. Over \$300 had been contributed to provincial funds during the past year.

## Red Deer

Fund-raising and study work also featured the report of the Red Deer women's club submitted by Mrs. Ethel Taylor who stated that if the women had not gained experience in the smaller women's sphere they would not likely have taken on the greater responsibility during the election campaign.

## Equal Pay

Unanimously approved during the afternoon session of the Alberta C.C.F. convention was a resolution calling on the provincial government to enact legislation "providing that no employer and no person acting on his behalf shall discriminate between his male and female employees by paying a female employee at a rate of pay less than the rate of pay paid to a male employee employed by him for work of comparable character done in the

## People's Weekly.

(Continued from page 1)

this province will be carried in the regular news columns. Every effort will be made by the publishers of The Commonwealth to make the paper truly representative of the two provinces. Letters to the Editor will be welcomed from all readers provided the paper's rules are adhered to.

Regular contributors to The People's Weekly such as William Irvine, "De Bunker" and Elmer E. Roper are being asked to submit material for publication in The Commonwealth.

## Passed by Convention

The arrangement to merge The People's Weekly with The Commonwealth was finally approved by the Alberta provincial convention of the C.C.F. in Edmonton on December 6th. The final proposal had been worked out a few days before in talks between Alberta and Saskatchewan officials.

It was felt by delegates attending the convention that the deal made with The Commonwealth was in every way satisfactory. The change is being made without causing financial embarrassment to the Alberta C.C.F. and readers of The People's Weekly are being given much more for their money.

One important advantage of the new arrangement, the delegates felt, is that Alberta readers will now have first hand information about what is going on in Saskatchewan, while Saskatchewan readers will also get the Alberta point of view and news of C.C.F. activities in this province.

It is understood that consideration is being given to having the Manitoba C.C.F. paper merged with The Commonwealth. This would provide one paper for the three provinces. It has been felt for some time that this would be the most satisfactory way of giving C.C.F. readers better value for the money they contribute to the upkeep of their publications.

## Neilson President Of Acadia C.C.F.

Morton Neilson, of Halkirk, was chosen as the new president of Acadia Federal C.C.F. Constitution Association at the annual meeting held on November 29. Jack Sutherland, of Hanna, was elected vice-president and George Smith, of Naco, secretary. The previous Board members were re-elected and Mrs. Abbie Payne of Stettler was also added to the Board.

Delegates attending the convention which nominated H. Stuart McEneaney as candidate, contributed generously toward the Acadia campaign fund. Preparations were made for the calling of a Board meeting to make further plans. William Irvine was welcomed by the delegates as convention speaker.

Pocket calendars with a C.C.F. slogan on the reverse side are now available to members it was reported at the C.C.F. annual convention. They sell for 25 cents a dozen prepaid and may be ordered direct from the Provincial Office, 10143 107th Street, Edmonton. It was suggested at the convention that members might enclose them when writing to friends or pass them on to neighbors as a means of introducing the C.C.F.

same establishment". It was pointed out that the principle of equal pay for equal work had already been approved by legislative enactment, by the governments of Saskatchewan and Ontario.



## Woodworth House Had A Good Year

At a meeting of the Woodworth House Association held on December 6, it was reported that after paying over \$1,000 for decorating and other repairs to the building and property at 10140 107th Street, there was a surplus of \$500 on the year's operations. Art E. Thornton was elected president of the Association, Lewis V. Smith, vice-president and Mrs. Nellie Peterson, secretary. On the Board of Directors are: Elmer E. Roper, Henry G. Young, J. E. Cook, Miss Edith Patterson and Floyd Johnson.

## Summer Camp Is CCYM Major Project

Increased activities by the C.C.Y.M. were reviewed by the Alberta President, George Milner, when he addressed the Alberta C.C.F. convention on December 6. The young people concentrated largely on promoting the C.C.F.-C.C.Y.M. camp at Mulhurst lake last year. All of the members participated in the election campaign and three of the candidates were members of the C.C.Y.M.

## Invite Rural Members To Meeting Jan. 20

Annual meeting of the Edmonton C.C.F. will be held in the I.O.O.F. Hall on Tuesday, January 20, at 8:15 p.m. when members of the rural areas of West and South Edmonton ridings will be invited to attend. Representatives from these two constituencies and East Edmonton will be elected to the C.C.F. Provincial Board and decision will be made regarding a nominating convention for the forthcoming federal election.

## Mrs. Caroline Riley An Edmonton Visitor

Mrs. Caroline Riley, returning from a six months' trip to Europe and North Africa, was a recent visitor in Edmonton where she formerly resided. On her way back to her home in Vancouver she also visited in Toronto where she attended a meeting of the Toronto C.C.F. Women's Club when Miss Edith Patterson, of Calgary, spoke on Social Credit in Alberta, and Agnes Macphail gave a report of her trip to the British Isles. Mrs. J. S. Woodworth was also a guest at this meeting. Mrs. Riley was enthusiastic about the way the Ontario women are working together in the interests of the C.C.F.

## Head's Women's Group



MISS RUTH CHERRY

was re-elected to the presidency of the Women's Committee of the Alberta C.C.F. at the annual convention held in Edmonton, December 5, and 6.

## Speakers In Favor National Health Plan

Although not speaking officially on behalf of their organizations, all three speakers at the forum sponsored by the Edmonton C.C.F. in the I.O.O.F. Hall November 18 favored the inauguration of a contributory national health insurance scheme. Participating in the discussion on the topic, "Should the federal government inaugurate a Canada-wide Socialized Health Service?", were: Mrs. Winnifred Ross, past president of the Farm

Women's Union of Alberta and a member of the provincial committee which recently made a survey of Alberta's health facilities; Charles Gilbert, president of the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council, and Lewis V. Smith, city school teacher.

Englishmen take a dim view of the American custom of using tea bags to make their favorite beverage. So when a certain British personage was asked how he liked his tea, he replied emphatically: "Please, without the surgical dressings!"



Merry Christmas

To Friends and Readers of the  
PEOPLE'S WEEKLY

FROM

Mr. & Mrs. Elmer E. Roper.  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Atkin.  
Mr. & Mrs. William Irvine.  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Peterson.  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy H. Jamha.  
Isobel & Sadie MacMillan.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. H. Williams.  
Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Gregory.  
Mary Crawford.  
Margaret Thompson.  
Marion Gimby.  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Scott.  
Mr. & Mrs. Edsel East.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Paul.  
Mr. & Mrs. N. P. Fimmere.  
Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Thornton.  
Mr. & Mrs. B. P. Marlin.  
Mr. & Mrs. E. Cook.  
Mr. & Mrs. F. C. Butterworth.  
Mr. & Mrs. John King.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Thornton.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Margolus.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Dennistoun.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Coldwell.  
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## Dominion Bureau of Statistics Prices Section PRICE INDEXES OF SPECIFIED ITEMS AND WAGE RATES, 1951

1935 - 1939 = 100  
(Retail prices unless otherwise noted)

Wage Rates: General Average	255.1
Bread	182.8
Butter	223.6
Sugar, granulated	201.0
Beef, sirloin	402.6
Pork, fresh loin	285.2
Lamb	357.8
Eggs	213.1
Milk	179.2
Clothing	203.1
Coal	186.4
Gasoline	153.1
Farm machinery	186.3
Wheat, No. 1, Manitoba	201.7
northern	234.8
Oats, No. 2 C.W.	274.6
Barley, No. 1, feed	92.7
Electricity for Domestic Service (All Canada Average)	457.3
Lumber	209.0
General hardware	267.6
Paper: Newsprint	194.7
Tires	

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## Urges Full Slate

(Continued from page 1)

vention on a National Health plan, the convention urged the federal government to establish a national Health Service designed to provide adequate medical, surgical, optical, dental and hospital treatment for all Canadian citizens.

### Equalized Rates

In another resolution the provincial government was asked to adopt a plan to equalize the rates throughout the province. It was pointed out that the costs of the present hospitalization plan bear very unequally upon the taxpayers of different municipalities. Also approved was a recommendation requesting that the provincial ad-

ministration assume the responsibility for the cost of all "extras". It was noted that in large city hospitals these "extras" average about \$4.00 a day and are a very considerable item when major surgery is required.

A welcome visitor to the convention on Friday morning was ex-Mayor H. D. Ainlay, former Edmontonian, who now resides in Haney, B.C. He joined with Mr. Roper in emphasizing the importance of having candidates in every constituency in every election campaign.

At the board meeting held following the convention William Irvine was appointed as Provincial Organizer with additional staff to be added as funds permit. He will concentrate on assisting in organizing nominating conventions for the forthcoming federal vote.

"Standing room only" was available at the highly successful banquet in the Masonic Temple on Friday evening when William Irvine was the guest speaker, with Floyd Johnson, president of the Edmonton C.C.F., presiding. Versatile musical entertainment by Jack Dennistoun was heartily applauded.

Another feature contributing to the friendly atmosphere were the noon lunches provided by the Edmonton C.C.F. Women's Club at the convention hall.

## Want Oil Price

(Continued from page 1)

berta Board of Public Utility Commissioners had assured Northwestern Utilities, natural gas distributors to Edmonton consumers, of an unreasonably high return on its investment.

Pointing to the fact that Alberta motor vehicle owners in the past year paid in excess of 19 million dollars for license and fuel oil taxes, the convention maintained that private automobile licenses should be reduced to a nominal registration fee and that the gasoline tax should also be reduced.

It was decided to further request the Alberta government to inaugurate at the earliest possible moment, a compulsory motor vehicle insurance scheme to be administered by the government at cost.

## Bits Of Nonsense

\* \* \*

Minister: "I'm glad to see you on your way to Sunday school, Robert. What do you expect to learn today?"

Robert: "I expect to learn the date of the picnic."

Policeman: "You saw the lady driving toward you. Why didn't you give her half the road?"

Unhappy Driver: "I was going to, just as soon as I could find out which half she wanted."

"Just why do you want a married man to work for you, rather than a bachelor?" asked the curious friend.

"Well," sighed the employer, "the married men don't get so upset if I yell at them."

## Point To Decline In Farm Income

OTTAWA (CPA)—Statements by Prime Minister St. Laurent that farmers are getting the best returns they have ever received were challenged in the House of Commons by Percy Wright (C.C.F., Melfort).

### Quotes Statistics

Said Wright, in citing official figures: "I consulted 'the Canada Year Book, and I find that in 1948 the net farm income in Canada was \$1,600,336,000. The net national income in Canada that year was \$12,474 million. In other words, the farm population of Canada were getting approximately 12.7% of the national income, although today approximately 26% of the population is engaged in agriculture. In 1949, net farm income stood at \$1,537,387,000, and the net national income was \$12,917 million. The percentage of national income going to the farmers in that year was 11.8, or a drop of .9% from 1948."

"The Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) in his budget address last April stated the net farm income in Canada for 1950 was \$1,424 million, while the net national income was \$14,308 million," he continued. "This works out at approximately 10%. In other words, for the last three years we have had a gradual but continuous drop in the percentage of national income being got by the farmers of this country."

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**Happy New Year**

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## At the Convention

(Continued from Page 2)

The convention was opposed to the proposal to lower the standard of entrance to the Faculty of Education to Grade XI because of the shortage of teachers maintaining that there is no evidence that a policy of further lowering of the standard of entrance would attract more recruits to the profession.

## Miscellaneous

Expressing concern over the irregularity of attendance of many members of parliament, especially in eastern constituencies, the C.C.F. convention passed a resolution asking that federal members of parliament should be paid their indemnity in proportion to their daily attendance at the sessions, absence from the house being excused only for sickness or other valid contingency.

Determined action, both in and out of parliament, to prevent any loss of civil liberties in Canada, was approved in a resolution passed by the convention. It was noted that amendments to the Criminal Code have been made, and are being consolidated in parliament, which gives the cabinet powers incompatible with fundamental rights. Note was made also of the U.S. attitude toward civil liberties as deteriorating to the point where even C.C.F. people are regarded with suspicion.

## William Irvine At C.C.F. Banquet

Addressing the Alberta C.C.F. annual convention banquet William Irvine stressed the nature of the historical process making for the acceptance of Socialism. "History," he said, "was not an endless repetition of events nor was it a serial story in which accident and chaos were the dominating factors. History conforms to a definite pattern of development within a sphere of natural law. The idea of Socialism is man's natural response to the threats to his survival. History is on our side and we are partners in the making of history."

"Losing an election is no reason for discouraging a Socialist," he declared. "It is surely not Socialists who should be feeling discouraged today. It is not Socialism that is now crumbling into dust before the inexorable tests of time. It is capitalism at home, and capitalist and Communist dictatorships and imperialism abroad that are being shaken to their foundations before the onslaught of the human spirit in this hour of world revolution."

"Capitalism is dying in spite of its loud whistling," he observed. "Socialism will come if we are worthy of it. It will not come by itself, it can come only by human effort. Domestic Socialism demands of the people a higher knowledge than that demanded by any other system known to man. It cannot come unless we bring it, it cannot work unless we make it work."

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## Personal Stuff

(Continued from page 1)

control of the organization. In 1944 I offered to turn the paper over to the Alberta C.C.F. The offer was accepted and since the issue of January 6th, 1945, the paper has been owned and controlled officially by the Alberta C.C.F. organization. Sharply increased publishing costs in the post war years have made continued production of the paper difficult. It was necessary to reduce the frequency of publication to two weeks and then, this year, to once a month. This eliminated the operation loss but was giving readers only twelve issues in the year, resulting in a marked decline in interest by subscribers. It was this condition which moved the Alberta C.C.F. Executive to approach the Saskatchewan C.C.F. with a view to merging the People's Weekly with The Commonwealth. The result of the negotiations is told in another column of this issue. This is the last issue of the People's Weekly.

Readers of Personal Stuff will probably understand that this is being written with some sadness. The medium through which one's thoughts have been expressed week after week through the years becomes in a sense an extension of one's personality. Particularly is this so when its pro-

duction has been an ever-present responsibility for more than half of one's lifetime. "Spare time" job though it has always been, I have regarded editing this paper and writing for it as the most important work I have been called upon to do, and probably the most rewarding. Through it I have come to know, and be known by, thousands of wonderful people. It would be strange indeed if the ending of such an absorbing part of one's life work did not bring with it a feeling of deep loss.

For readers of the paper the change is a good one. You will get a bigger paper and you'll get it every week. Virtually all the C.C.F. news and information which has been in the People's Weekly will be in The Commonwealth. In addition you will get much more direct information about Saskatchewan where a C.C.F. government is being put to the test. All the essential news of C.C.F. activities in Alberta will be reported. Regular contributors to the People's Weekly will have columns appearing, occasionally at least, in The Commonwealth. Indeed, not much is being lost through the merging of the two papers and much will be gained by People's Weekly readers. I hope every subscriber to this paper will continue to take The Commonwealth. I hope you'll try to increase its circulation. You can recommend it to anyone as good value for its subscription price.

I end this last bit of Personal Stuff in the People's Weekly with heartfelt thanks to all whose loyal support down through the years has made this paper possible. Your friendship has been one of the most treasured things in my life. I hope the Editor of The Commonwealth will permit me to continue my written association with you. The People's Weekly is dead, long live The Commonwealth!

## C.C.F. Asks

(Continued from page 1)

vincial government either accept the demand of farm organizations for public power lines or conduct a new plebiscite to determine the present feeling of the Alberta public on this issue.

### Crownest Grain Rates

The delegates expressed themselves as standing forthrightly "for the retention of the Crownest Pass grain rates and that we emphatically oppose any attempt on the part of the federal government to abolish them." It was noted that in 1897 the C.P.R. received a government subsidy to aid the construction of the Crownest line railway and in return contracted to reduce freight rates on grain and flour. It was pointed out that such rates are essential to the prosperity of Western Canada and contribute to the welfare not only of farmers but of the trading and manufacturing centres of the West as well. Moreover, it was contended, they are only partial compensation for various burdens placed upon the prairie regions in the pursuance of a national policy for Canada.

### Hit Pulp Mill Damage

Introduced by Jack Sutherland, who has made a close study of the problem, a resolution was approved protesting most emphatically against pulp mill operations on the headwaters of all of our eastward flowing rivers and streams. The resolution called on the provincial government to inaugurate a policy of selective logging such as has been adopted so successfully in Sweden and other European countries. It was pointed out that the forest and vegetation cover of the eastern slopes of the Rockies was of vital importance not only to the people of Alberta but to those of Saskatchewan and Manitoba as well. The resolution deplored the fact that this valuable cover was even now being seriously depleted

by logging followed by fire and over-grazing and "assumed to be a fact that within the past year, the provincial government has granted a certain United States corporation timber rights for pulp operations on the headwaters of one of our most important rivers with negotiations pending with two or three other American and Canadian operators." The resolution emphasized that "unless such deterioration, exploitation and destruction is controlled and in a great measure stopped, we will but repeat the disastrous experience of the United States in

nearly all of its rivers and streams with terrible floods in spring and dry gravel beds in summer."

### Provincial Marketing Agency

It was decided to petition the provincial government to set up a marketing board for all farm produce, not now under federal jurisdiction, along the lines of the Wheat Board.

Another resolution asked that the C.C.F. institute a vigorous educational program to convince the farmers of the necessity of finding a co-operative way of organizing their farm enterprise.

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